- MTNL has launched IPTV services in both Delhi and Mumbai. It will help stop the churn of landline subscribers.
- Improving the legacy PSTN network by change of cables, drop wire etc. Bringing Delhi and Mumbai under 95 dialing facility (local call).

Postal subsidy for newspapers and periodicals

1845. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for subsidized postal charges to be paid by newspapers and periodicals;

(b) the reasons for requirement of all to approach the Central Authority at Delhi;

(c) the reasons for not delegating these powers to Chief Post Master General of respective State; and

(d) whether it is a fact that postal facilities of hundreds of periodicals is cancelled in the recent past?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The procedure for special rate of postage to be paid by newspapers and periodicals is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) As per the existing procedure, Divisional Superintendents of post offices and Gazetted Postmasters can register publications as registered newspapers for the purpose of transmission by post to avail special rate of postage. There is no procedure to register publications falling under the category of periodicals. Periodicals can avail special rate of postage provided they fulfill the stipulate conditions. There is no requirement to approach the Central Authority at Delhi.

(d) In all, 395 registered newspapers were not considered to be extended the special rate of postage during the year 2006-2007 and till date, since these publications did not fulfill the prescribed conditions for availing this facility.

Statement

Procedure for special rate of postage to be paid by Newspapers and Periodicals

(I) **Newspapers**

Section 9 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 provides that (1) The Central Government may make rules providing for the registration of newspapers for transmission by inland post as registered newspapers.

(2) For the purpose of such registration, every publication, consisting of wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto or to other current topics, with or without advertisements, shall be deemed a newspaper, subject to the following conditions, namely:–

(a) that it is published in numbers at intervals of not more than thirty-one days; and

(b) that it has a *bona fide* list of subscribers.

The Divisional Superintendents and independent Gazetted Post Masters have been delegated powers of granting registration of publications, which fulfill the prescribed conditions, as registered newspapers for transmission by post on special rate of postage.

PROCEDURE:

An application for the first registration of a newspaper as registered newspaper for the purpose of transmission by post shall, save in the case of a newspaper printed or published under the orders of any Government in India or for official purposes, be made to Divisional Superintendent of Post Offices or Gazetted Postmasters in the form prescribed for the purpose by the Director General, and will be accompanied by two copies of the latest issues of the newspaper sought to be registered, a list showing the names and addresses of at least fifty *bonafide* subscribers and by a certificate from the District, Presidency or Sub-Divisional Magistrate within whose local jurisdiction the newspaper is printed or published or the printer or the publisher resides stating that the declaration or declarations required by Section 5 of the Press and Registration of Book Act, 1867 has or have been made or no such declaration is required under the said Act as the publication is not a newspaper according to the definition given in that Act.

(II) **PERIODICALS**

Rule 17-B of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933, framed under the powers given in the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, provides-that the special rates of postage mentioned in Rule 1 in respect of book packet containing periodicals shall be applicable only if the following conditions are satisfied:-

(a) That it is registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (25 of 1867).

(b) That the periodical bears in print in any convenient place either on the first or last page thereof, the superscription "Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India under No....."

New law against private phone-tapping

1846. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to emerging advanced technologies mobile phone tapping and keeping surveillance on them is becoming very easy;

(b) whether it would harm the security and integrity of our country;

(c) the steps Government are taking to keep a watch on such problems; and

(d) whether Government are planning to make some new law to stop this private tapping of phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Lawful interception is carried under section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in the interests of ".....the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State,